



THE IBERIAN PENINSULA: RELIEF AND RAILWAYS. (After the Diagram Co.)

The prevailing south-west winds, moreover, only in winter bring much moisture to the southern regions, so that there is always a tendency to drought during the summer (see p. 17). Much of the plateau is barren and most of it is treeless, but bulls and merino sheep are reared in parts, and excellent wheat is grown near Valladolid in Old Castile, and in New Castile around Madrid. Chick-peas are also grown in many parts throughout the peninsula.

The Sierra Morena is rich in minerals, and quicksilver has long been mined at Almaden, to the north, while lead and some silver are found in the district around Linares. Sword-blades are still made at Toledo, but the iron is imported from other districts in the peninsula. Madrid benefits by its central situation, from which roads and railways can diverge in all directions, but possesses no other natural advantages.